(b) if so, whether as a result of this, some of the species of tigers have already become extinct and others are faced with serious threat of survival;

(c) whether it has also been reported that Government are seriously concerned over the sharp decline in tiger population;

(d) whether Government had taken up efforts to count the number of tigers in various states both in open places and jungles; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to preserve the tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only one sub-species of tiger is found in India and is faced with serious threat of survival.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The last All India Tiger Census was carried out in the year 1993. The estimated wild population of tigers as per 1993 census is 3750.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to preserve the tiger population are as under:—

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensigy patrolling around the Tiger Reserves.

(iii) Steps have been intiated to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger Areas.

Smuggling of Birds

2857. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the 'Pioneer' of 17th June, 1994 under the caption, 'Fred birds fly to their death';

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the matter of illegal smuggling of precious birds from the country was brought to the notice of the Government earlier as it is reported that a number of such trips had earlier taken place in connivance with Pakistan International Airlines;

(d) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(e) what remedial steps were taken to check such smuggling activities and what action was taken against the persons involved; and

(f) what remedial steps Government propose to take to put an end of such smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government has seen the report.

(b) As per information received from the Regional Deputy Director of Wildlife Preservation, Delhi 1320 birds were seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi on 6.4.1994 and one person was arrested. The details of the birds seized are as under:

Alexandrine Parakeet	150 Nos.
Hill Myna	50 Nos.
Munia	1000 Nos.
Black headed Munia	120 Nos.

The birds were released in a Sanctuary in Delhi as per orders of the Court. These birds are not exotic to India and they are often kept in capitivity in Delhi areas for long time. In free condition birds are more comfortable and their chances of survival are better.

(c) and (d) Some information regarding illegal smuggling of birds is received from time to time and surveillance on the same

is being kept, the instant case was detected due to vigilance.

(e) and (f) Steps taken by the Government to protect the rare birds include:

1. Hunting of Scheduled wild birds has been banned by law.
2. Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts. for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.
3. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.
4. International trade in endangered species of animals/birds and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). India is a Party to the Convention.
5. Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife preservation are set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
6. Cooperation of Police, Customs, BSF, etc., is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.
7. In the seizure case of 6.4.1994, one person was arrested and was produced before the Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi under section 50(4) of the Wild Life (Proteciton) Act, 1972. The accused was first remanded to judicial custody and subsequently released on bail. The case is in Court of Law.
8. There is a scheme for payment of reward to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.
9. A network of birds Sanctuaries have been set up in the country to conserve the wild birds and their habitat. Central Assistance is provided to State Governments for their development.

Environmental clearance of power projects to Karnataka

2858. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) What are the power projects both mini hydel, hydel and thermal, pending for environment clearance with Ministry of Environment and Forests with names of such projects;

(b) whether Government would consider to clear these projects early keeping in view of the acute shortage of the power in Karnataka; and

(c) whether any information is pending from Government of Karnataka for giving clearance or whether any conditions are to be fulfilled before giving the clearance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Sarapadi Hydel project and the Raichur Thermal power project (5th and 6th Units) relating to the State of Karnataka are pending environmental clearance.

(b) and (c) A final decision on the clearance of the project proposals will be taken within a stipulated time period from the date of receipt of the requisite information which has been sought from the project authorities.

पर्यावरण प्रभाव से संबंधित अधिसूचनाओं में संशोधन

2859. **श्री सोमपाल:**
श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:
श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 3 जुलाई, 1994 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रेस" में छपे उस समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव से संबंधित अधिसूचनाओं के कुछ महत्वपूर्ण उपबंधों में उद्योगपतियों